

SPCS 1762
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REMARKSStatus of Claims

With this amendment, claims 1, 2, 6-11, 13-17, and 23-35 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 23-32 and 35 are allowed. Further, Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3, 6, and 12 have been determined to contain patentable subject matter subject to the objections for dependence on a rejected claim.

Claims 1, 6, 10, and 31 are amended herein. Claims 3 and 12 are cancelled herein.

Telephone Interview of August 2, 2006

Applicant and their undersigned counsel thank Examiner Moore for the courtesy extended during the August 2, 2006, interview. During this interview, the amendments presented herein, as well as the arguments advanced in Applicant's Amendment A filed March 10, 2006, were discussed. No agreement was reached with respect to the patentability of any claim. Examiner Moore reiterated, however, that claims 1 and 10 would be deemed allowable if they included the elements of objected-to claims 3 and 12, respectively. Although Applicant believes claims 1 and 10 as originally filed are allowable, the claims are amended herein to expedite allowance.

Claim Amendments

As noted above, claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate the requirements of dependent claim 3, and claim 10 is amended herein to incorporate the requirements of dependent claim 12. Accordingly, claims 3 and 12 are cancelled herein.

Further, claims 6 and 31 are amended herein to correct dependency in light of the cancellation of claims 3 and 12.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

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It is Applicant's understanding that after the entry of the amendment, claims 1 and 10 will be allowed over the references cited in the final Office action dated June 1, 2006.

Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 13-17, and 33-34

Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 13-17, and 33-34, which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 10, are also submitted as patentable over the references of record for the same reasons as claims 1 and 10, and for the additional elements they require.

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CONCLUSION

For the reasons provided above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 2, 6-11, 13-17, and 23-35.

Applicant does not believe that a fee is due in connection with this response. If, however, the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, he is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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